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Annual Reports

OF THE

SELECTMEN, TREASURER,

AND

Superintending School Committee

OF THE

TOWN OF STRATHAM,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

FEBRUARY 28, 1885.

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EXETER, N. H.:
GAZETTE STEAM PRINTING HOUSE.
1885.

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ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
SELECTMEN, TREASURER,
AND
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
OF THE TOWN OF
STRATHAM, N. H.,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
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TOWN OFFICERS.

MODERATOR,
GEORGE A. WIGGIN.

TOWN CLERK,
JOSEPH S. STAPLES.

SELECTMEN,
JAMES E. ODELL, GEORGE E. GOWEN,
GEORGE W. CHASE.

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
RICHARD M. SCAMMON.

TREASURER,
JOSEPH S. STAPLES.

COLLECTOR,
GEORGE A. WIGGIN.

AUDITORS,
JAMES W. ROLLINS, JOHN N. THOMPSON.

NOVEMBER ELECTION :

MODERATOR,
RICHARD M. SCAMMON.

REPRESENTATIVE,
RICHARD M. SCAMMON,

SUPERVISORS,
FRANK H. SCAMMON, DAVID JEWELL, JR.,
CHARLES J. BREWSTER.

ACCOUNT OF

COLLECTOR G. A. WIGGIN.

Amount of taxes committed him for collection :

State, County, Town and School taxes,	\$3503 29
School house tax,	573 50
Resident Highway tax, 1883, not worked,	23 16
Non-resident tax,	186 30
“ School house tax,	11 22
“ Highway tax,	30 83
Uncollected taxes,	214 93
	<hr/>
	\$4543 23

COLLECTOR WIGGIN'S DISCHARGE.

Non-resident Highway taxes, worked out,	\$23 75
Abatement of taxes,	10 22
Discount of taxes,	97 16
Paid Treasurer in cash,	4132 43
Paid Collector's services,	75 00
Uncollected taxes,	204 67
	<hr/>
	\$4543 23

STRATHAM, N. H., Feb. 25, 1885.

This day examined the foregoing account of Collector George A. Wiggin, and find them rightly cast and well vouched.

JOHN N. THOMPSON, }
JAMES W. ROLLINS, } Auditors.

REPORT OF

TREASURER J. S. STAPLES.

Received of the Treasurer of 1883,	\$1342 89
Collector Wiggin,	4132 43
State Railroad tax,	296 11
Savings Bank tax,	911 00
Literary fund,	71 12
Bounty on Woodchucks,	31 00
“ Crows,	1 00
County Treasurer, expenses of poor,	143 55
T. W. Taylor, for rent of hall,	25 92
	<hr/>
	\$6955 02

TREASURER'S DISCHARGE.

Paid Charles Lane for use of watering trough,	\$3 00
For printing reports,	25 00
Albert A. Batchelder, for services as Supervisor,	10 00
George W. Chase, as Janitor and coal for hall,	21 51
I. S. Wiggin, abatement for loss of ox,	1 13
A. C. Lane, bounty on woodchucks,	10
J. H. Tuck, “ “	40
Sarah W. Chase, balance on note and interest,	97 75
For repair on Town Hall and bounty on woodchucks,	4 90
Thompson & Batchelder, for Collector's books, etc.,	2 33
George Wingate, sheep killed by dogs,	5 00
George Dewhurst, bounty on woodchucks,	50
H. E. Dean, “ “	30
Samuel Ellis, “ “	10

Paid George W. Chase, to paid sundry persons bounty on	
woodchucks,	1 90
County tax for the year 1884,	892 96
Charles E. Gear, pine wood for hall,	3 50
H. H. Leavitt, setting glass in Town Hall,	1 25
A. N. Rollins, watering trough,	3 00
Frank H. Pearson, bounty on woodchucks,	40
George W. Chase, for paid bounty on woodchucks,	1 10
H. H. Leavitt, building horse sheds,	331 00
George W. Chase, grading around horse sheds,	31 50
J. E. Odell, bounty paid by him on woodchucks,	6 70
Geo. E. Gowen, " " "	15 60
George Dewhurst, " " "	80
State tax for the year 1884,	1284 00
J. E. Odell, bounty paid by him on woodchucks,	70
A. A. Batchelder, services as Supervisor,	5 00
I. S. Wiggin, labor in town house yard,	50
J. W. Kelley, abatement on female dog,	2 00
A. C. Lane, services as supervisor for three elections,	15 00
Nathan E. Norton, use of watering trough,	3 00
Estate of Charles Lane, use of watering trough,	3 00
E. E. Marston, painting town hall.	25 00
R. B. Smith, abatement of poll tax for two years,	2 20
G. W. Chase, paints, oils, etc., for town hall,	30 78
George E. Gowen, bounty on woodchucks, and paid to A. J. Chapman, abatement on horse,	2 17
A. N. Rollins, watering trough,	3 00
R. M. Scammon, superintendent of schools,	27 24
J. S. Staples, services as treasurer and going to Concord and Portsmouth to pay State and County taxes,	31 00
J. S. Staples, services as town clerk and post- age,	20 25

Paid George H. Odell, services as supervisor,	10 00
J. E. Odell, services as selectman,	61 95
Geo. W. Chase, going to Portsmouth for paints and oils, and settling the same,	4 00
George W. Chase, services as Selectman,	44 00
George E. Gowen, " "	42 25
James W. Rollins, services as selectman after auditing, 1884,	4 00
James W. Rollins, services as auditor, 1885,	3 00
Levi Barker, watering trough for three years,	9 00
John N. Thompson, as auditor, 1885,	3 00
T. W. Taylor, services and supplies for the town hall,	5 91
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	\$3103 69

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Paid S. C. Foss, breaking roads in 1883-1884,	\$8 25
J. W. Marsh, " "	19 42
J. W. Rollins, "	14 50
G. W. Parkman, "	11 78
B. H. Moulton, "	20 35
W. F. Sanderson, "	23 00
Geo. E. Gowen, working out non-resident high- way tax,	5 36
F. P. Harvey, lumber and work on bridge, and breaking roads,	29 08
C. N. Healey, breaking roads,	15 30
Sylvester Dame, "	11 85

Paid Benaiah Wiggin, laying stone on Winnicut Bridge,	14 00
David Jewell, Jr., breaking roads, etc.,	10 90
B. H. Moulton, work on road,	1 20
Harry V. Smith, breaking roads in 1884,	4 80
Leonard Lang, breaking roads,	9 22
R. B. Smith, damages caused by widening road,	18 70
George W. Bowley, grading the hill near Jesse Merrill's,	102 41
George W. Bowley, breaking roads in 1884,	10 28
John W. Marsh, " 1885,	26 70
F. P. Harvey, " "	14 32
Oliver Berry, land taken to widen the highway,	18 83
George E. Gowen, breaking roads,	11 13
George W. Parkman, " etc.,	10 20
H. H. Staples, " etc.,	30 42
Nathaniel Wiggin, " "	15 90
Otis B. French, " "	22 95
Otis B. French, land damages,	20 57
F. H. Burleigh, breaking roads,	13 66
Geo. H. Odell, " "	13 86
Geo. W. Bowley, " "	10 73
Sylvester Dame, " "	22 43
Asa Jewell, abatement on highway tax,	1 37

\$563 37

SCHOOLS.

Paid J. T. Smart,	District No. 1,	\$331 62
Geo. A. Wiggin,	" " 2,	368 79
David Jewell, Jr.,	" " 3,	253 55
Benaiah Wiggin,	" " 4,	240 68

\$1194 64

School money due from last year :

Paid J. T. Smart,	District No. 1,	\$90 85
David Jewell, Jr.,	" " 3,	151 04

\$241 89

SCHOOL HOUSE TAX.

District No. 1

Paid J. E. Odell, Note and interest,	\$210 00
J. E. Odell, the amount raised in said Dist.	522 32
C. N. Healey, for benefit of Dist. No. 1,	26 55

\$758 87

Paid District No. 2,	\$50 00
" " 4,	25 00

TOWN AND COUNTY POOR.

Paid N. H. Asylum, in case Geo. O. Wiggin,	\$241 33
F. W. Spaulding, " " " " "	2 00
Sarah Philpot, for her support,	72 50
For support of family of John Rundlett,	27 00
For support of family of Perley Smith,	5 00
For supplies for Stephen Philpot,	4 50
J. S. Staples, Supplies furnished S. Philpot, A.	
P. Smith, Mrs. L. W. Mason, Jeremiah Jones.	36 76
J. W. Kelly, supplies for J. Jones,	1 50

\$390 59

RECAPITULATION.

Cash received by Treasurer,	\$6955 02
Paid outstanding demands and sundry expenses,	\$3103 69
Highways and Bridges,	563 37
Town and County Poor,	390 59
Schools,	1194 64
School money due from last year,	241 89
School house tax, District No. 1,	758 87
“ “ “ “ “ 2,	50 00
“ “ “ “ “ 4,	25 00
Cash on hand,	626 97
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	\$6955 02

Stratham, Feb. 25th. 1885.

This day examined the foregoing accounts of the Treasurer, and find them fairly brought, rightly cast and well vouched, and a balance of six hundred and twenty-six and ninety-seven cents in his hands, (\$626 97.)

JOHN N. THOMPSON,	} Auditors.
JAMES W. ROLLINS,	

SELECTMEN'S BILLS.

TOWN OF STRATHAM TO J. E. ODELL, DR.

1884: Services as Selectman.

Feb. 28, To South Newmarket on account of G. O.

Wiggin, \$1 50

Mar. 1, Attending to calls of poor, 1 50

3, Preparing accounts and delivering them
for printing, 2 25

5, Notifying surveyors to break roads, 1 00

12, 1-2 day pauper case, 75

15, Hall preparing blanks for distributing, 1 50

17, Shoveling snow 3 hours, 45

28, Examining bridges other town business, 1 50

31, Jury meeting attendance, 50

Apr. 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6, taking inventory and other
town business, 7 50

12, 14, to the session to receive inventories, 3 00

21, 22, 23, to making assessment, etc., 4 50

May 24, to 1-2 day in session, 75

26, Preparing surveyors' books, 1 50

27, 28, To making and delivering Collector's
book, and delivering surveyors' books, 3 00

June 3, To 1-2 day in session, 75

Making return of R. R. stock, 1 00

4, Attending to pauper cases, 1 50

July 5, To Town Hall to receive Highway tax
books, 1 50

23, Attending to wants of poor, 1 50

Aug. 27, 1-2 day on town business, 75

Sept. 27, Attending Jury meeting, 50

Oct. 3,	1-2 day in session,	75
7,	" " "	75
14,	Making warrants,	75
18,	Writing notices and delivering to land- owners case of new highway,	1 50
Nov. 6,	Attending road hearing,	1 50
7,	Making and delivering notices, to widen and straighten roads,	75
20,	1-2 day examining roads,	75
24, 25,	Widening road near Jessie Merrill's making and delivering return,	2 00
Dec. 9,	1-2 day town business,	75
11,	Widening French road,	1 00
17,	Appraising and widening,	1 50
24,	In session,	1 00
	Regulating Jury box, etc., and other town business,	1 50
1885 :		
Jan. 11,	Making return of widening and straightening French road and delivering same to Clerk,	2 50
14, 15,	to making and collecting affidavits of County paupers,	2 50
27,	Settling accounts with Commissioners,	1 00
Feb. 14,	Attending calls of poor,	50
16,	1-2 day in session,	75
25,	Settling accounts and auditing,	1 50
		<hr/>
		\$61 95

Received payment,

J. E. ODELL.

TOWN OF STRATHAM TO G. W. CHASE, DR.

1884 :

March 15, one day in session,	\$1 50
27, writing an appointment,	50
31, jury meeting,	50
31, going to Exeter,	75
31, to South Newmarket,	75
April 1, 2, 4 and 5, taking inventory,	8 00
7, on town business,	1 50
12, 1-2 day in session,	75
14, one day in session,	1 50
21, 22 and 23, making assessment,	4 50
May 1, making enrollment,	1 00
24, in session and other business,	1 25
26, preparing surveyors' books,	1 50
27, distributing books and qualifying survey- ors,	1 50
June 4, 1-2 day in session,	75
July 5, on town business,	50
Aug. 7, town business,	50
30, pauper case,	50
Sept. 27, jury meeting,	50
Oct. 7, in session one-half day,	75
13, to Exeter to get warrants,	75
14, one-half day in session,	75
Nov. 6, to David Batchelder's to attend hearing,	1 50
24, measuring and widening road,	1 50
26, on town business,	1 00
Dec. 11, 16, widening and straightening highways, and other business,	3 00
19, to Greenland to see painter,	75
24, in session at Town Hall,	1 50

1885 :

Feb. 12, to Capt. Odell's writing and posting notice,	50
16, in session one-half day,	75
21, to Exeter for warrants and one-half day in session,	1 50
25, to settling and auditing accounts,	1 50
	<hr/>
	\$44 00

Received payment,

G. W. CHASE.

TOWN OF STRATHAM TO GEORGE E. GOWEN DR.

March, To Winnicut Bridge,	50
15, filling out inventory blank,	1 50
31, jury meeting,	50
April 12, session at Town Hall,	75
14, session at Town Hall, rec. blanks,	75
21, 22 and 23, making assessment 2 1-2 days,	3 75
28, to James Odell's,	50
28, making copy of inventory for Sec. of State,	2 00
May 26, making State, County, Town and three District taxes,	12 00
copying inventory in Selectmen's Book,	2 00
1-2 day appointing Officers,	75
One day making out Surveyors' books,	1 50
June 4, 1-2 day viewing gravel pit,	75
delivering Surveyors' books and swearing in Surveyors,	1 50
July 17, making returns to Town Clerk of Officers,	50
Sept. 17, jury meeting,	50

Oct. 7, Town Hall 1-2 day,	75
14, " " " "	75
Nov. 6, road petition, David Bachelder,	1 50
23, widening road near Jessie Merrill's,	1 50
26, viewing road between O. French and O. Berry's,	75
26, copying and serving petition,	50
Dec. 11 and 14, widening road between O. French and O. Berry's,	2 25
12, filling vacancy of highway surveyor,	50
1885 :	
Jan. 23, to James Odell's with agent for hearse,	50
postage and correspondence for hearse,	50
Feb. 16, in session Town Hall half a day,	75
21, " " " " "	75
25, " " " one day	1 50
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	\$42 25

Received payment,

GEO. E. GOWEN.

VOTED BY THE TOWN.

Votes passed by the town at the annual meeting, March 11, 1884 :

Voted that the town purchase a hearse and that the sum of six hundred dollars be appropriated for the same.

Voted that the town build a hearse house on the town cemetery near the Baptist Church and that the sum of two hundred dollars be appropriated for the same.

Voted to build a row of horse sheds across the west end of the town hall yard and to appropriate four hundred dollars for the same.

Voted to raise the sum of three hundred dollars for the use of the town the current year.

Voted to raise the sum of six hundred dollars for the repair of highways and bridges.

At the town meeting, Nov. 4, 1884 :

Voted to instruct the selectmen to let the town hall for a skating rink to parties in town, and to parties in town only.

Voted that the hall shall not be underlet or relet to any parties whatever.

SCHOOL REPORT.

DISTRICT NO. 1.

J. T. Smart, Prudential Committee.

Entire year taught by Bertha J. Hobbs, the same teacher as last year, and the same remarks will apply. The recitations have been characterized by promptness, some of the smaller classes in arithmetic appearing remarkably well. The school room was quiet and orderly, and the scholars deserved credit for careful treatment of the new school building.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

Geo. A. Wiggin, Prudential Committee.

Teacher for the year, Clara E. Kimball of Kensington. This school has been very satisfactory in appearance at our several visits. The scholars having happily recovered from their sulky spell of last year, united their efforts with those of the teacher to regain their former good standing.

The school has become small in number, and the increased time afforded for each recitation was improved in valuable drill and black board work. The result was seen in the specially creditable examination papers produced at the close of the year. An excellent school.

DISTRICT NO. 3.

David Jewell, Jr., Prudential Committee.

Spring term taught by Edna A. Hobbs, the teacher of last year.

Fall term taught by Fred P. Comings, a recent graduate of Dartmouth. Mr. Comings is a believer in strong government, good order was observable at all times, and a commendable amount of hard work was done.

Winter term taught by Henry L. Felker, who in addition to his experience as a teacher, has for some years superintended the schools of the town of Madbury. He at once gained the respect of the scholars, and fully maintained his reputation as a successful teacher. We like his method of instruction, in that it requires of the pupil a comprehension of the ideas of the text-books rather than the mere words. Mr. Felker is to be credited for the only properly filled register we have ever received.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

Benaiah Wiggin, Prudential Committee.

Charlotte A. Churchill has been in charge the entire year, the same teacher appearing in last year's report. Additional comment is deemed unnecessary.

REMARKS.

Our schools as a whole will not fall below their usual condition. In three districts the same teachers have been in charge, the entire year. Changes have occurred in No. 3, but were unavoidable ; we have had no occasion the present year to advise the withdrawal of any teacher. One pupil has been dismissed,

otherwise the registers report no case of non-compliance with the law concerning attendance. None but experienced teachers have been employed, and the result has been such as to call for no severe criticism. The advantage of having instructors who have learned their business is obvious. Districts can not afford to use their schools for experimental purposes, for the benefit of apprentices. The success of the school depends on the selection of the teacher. Everyone has a conception of what the ideal teacher should be, but that does not surmount the difficulty of selecting the ideal article from among the numerous applicants. It is not sufficient that a young lady be well educated, a paragon of moral and filial excellence, and have exalted views of the teachers mission, if she lack the "aptitude to teach" the result must be a failure. Public opinion will thus give its verdict, and though too often based on the representations and immature judgment of its own pet hopefuls, it is the final appeal and ultimate authority. Those that can not win its approval may as well be convinced that they were not called for their calling.

Elementary studies are of themselves dull, and especially so to young pupils who have yet to learn the value of studious application. It remains for the teacher to surround these branches with an interesting atmosphere ; to create an interest by their own vivacity and intelligent appreciation of them. Let the teacher be the light and life of the school room.

Dignity is essential, but the frigid manner often assumed and denominated "school ma'am dignity" inspires little achievement ; it is often the cloak of mental sluggishness, and while it may be conducive to a certain awe-struck sort of order, it destroys enthusiasm, discourages the scholar and helps him "die in his own opinion."

A common fault of the district school is "too many classes."

It makes the school unwieldy, and is a source of weakness. No one can do justice to thirty recitations per day. Attention has been given to the matter during the year, and it has been remedied so far as seemed practicable. The number of classes has been materially reduced ; the reduction in one case being fully one-third. Undoubtedly some were placed below their proper standing, but with the increased attention to each recitation we believe the result will more than justify the course taken.

Written examinations were again required at the close of the year, and with very satisfactory results. Each class examined was given a variety of questions involving the principles it had been over, all "catch" questions being avoided.

Careful attention was directed to be given to the execution of the work. Papers in Arithmetic and Geography being at the same time considered as an examination in spelling, composition, punctuation, etc. The average percentage attained was eighty-one. We are convinced of the utility of these examinations as a test of school progress, and of their practical value to the scholars, because of the excellent drill given by the teachers in preparation for them.

Good attendance is an index of good schools. We point with pride to the "Roll of Honor" containing forty-eight names (forty-two per cent of the whole number enrolled) and to the high percentage of daily attendance. Last year this percentage was ninety-one. The superintendent of our schools thirty years earlier reported the daily attendance at seventy-five per cent ; fifteen years later it had risen to eighty-five ; the present year it stands at ninety-four.

This is progress in the right direction and is truly encouraging. The improvement may well be carried farther, scholars are still too often allowed to remain at home, or retained for

some slight reason, sometimes to the pecuniary advantage of the parent perhaps, but to the permanent intellectual damage of the child. There is no better time or way to inculcate habits of prompt and close attention to business, than by requiring such attention to the school work.

We have a great deal of faith in the possibilities of the common school and believe their work should not compare unfavorably with that of graded schools. Properly managed they have a great advantage in the flexibility of their course which can be adapted to the varying capacities and needs of the scholars as no graded system can. It is certain that those who have entered graded schools from this town have not been less advanced than others of equal age in the institution they entered.

Our own connection with the schools has been very pleasant and we desire to acknowledge the uniform kindness and courtesies of all with whom we have been brought in contact. Hoping our efforts have not been "all in vain," we decline further service. Respectfully submitted,

R. M. SCAMMON.

Income from literary fund,	\$71 12
School money raised by town,	1123 52
Whole amount of school money,	1194 64
District No. 1,	331 62
2,	368 79
3,	253 55
4,	240 58

Text-books used.—Franklin's Reader, Greenleaf's Arithmetic, Harper's Geography, Barnes' History, Worcester's Speller, Robinson's Algebra, Wells' Shorter Course in Grammar, Lockyer's Astronomy, Meservey's Book-keeping, Hutchinson's Physiology.

STATISTICAL REPORT.

District	1	2	3	4	Total
No. of weeks in Spring term,	8	9	4	9	30
“ “ Fall “	10	10	8	8	36
“ “ Winter “	10.8	11	12.1	8.6	41.6
Whole No. scholars in Spring,	25	19	23	24	91
“ “ Fall,	19	14	29	21	83
“ “ Winter,	24	13	25	20	82
“ “ during year	32	24	32	25	113
Average attendance in Spring,	22	19	21	20	82
“ “ Fall,	17	13	26	19	75
“ “ Winter,	22	12	24	18	76
Percentage of attendance for year	89	98	96	93	av94
Wages teachers per mo., summer,	\$35	40	32	32	
“ “ winter,	\$40	44	40	34	
Visits by Superintendent Com.	7	6	6	7	26
“ Prudential Committee,			2		2
“ Parents and others,	78	62	50	23	213
No. scholars in Reading,	32	24	29	25	110
“ “ Spelling,	32	24	28	20	104
“ “ Penmanship,	31	24	20	20	95
“ “ Arithmetic,	32	18	20	17	87
“ “ Geography,	19	12	8	14	53
“ “ Grammar,	17	7	11	5	40
“ “ Composition,	16	10	11	7	44
“ “ History,	16	7	3	2	28
“ “ Algebra,	3	5	5	2	15
“ “ Physiology,	10	3	5	2	20
“ “ Book-keeping,	2				2
“ “ Astronomy,		2			2
“ “ Philosophy,		1			1

ROLL OF HONOR.

Names of pupils not absent or tardy for one term. Names in italics not absent for two terms ; those in capitals not absent for three terms :

District No. 1.—*Mary E. Dean, Ella B. Dean, Myra N. Rundlett,* John E. Chase, Fred E. Otis, John H. Tuck, Hannah G. Fernald, Hattie E. Grant, Sadie P. Peabody, Mary A. Thompson, Mary A. Tuck, George H. Bowley, Charles E. Parkman.

District No. 2.—JOHN PIPER, *Fred Robinson, Annie P. Wiggin,* James D. Littlefield, J. True Roby, Mabel F. Robinson, Mary H. Hawley, Josie S. Roby.

District No. 3.—FRANK H. BARKER,* *Willard Barker, May, J. Gowen, Sadie B. Jewell, Hattie L. Jewell,* Effie A. Chapman, Lilla F. Fitzgerald, Grace A. Gowen, Vesta E. Jewell, Geneva B. Marsh, Hattie J. Wiggin, Belle M. French, Frank Jones, John French.

District No. 4.—GERTIE S. JOHNSON, ANNIE L. JOHNSON *Florence E. Rollins, Amy M. Smith, Charles E. Wiggin,* Alvina Marston, Flora A. Sawyer, Frank A. Batchelder, Charlie H. Johnson, Eddie S. Marston, Orin T. Marston, John O. Wiggin, Jennie S. Wentworth.

* Not absent or tardy for three years.

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J. D. P. WINGATE, PROPRIETOR,

WATER STREET, EXETER, N. H.

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